



108

Greatest Of All Times

*globally selected
PERSONALITIES*

ISBN:978-81-982954-3-9

Compiled by:
Prof Dr S Ramalingam

4 or 24 Aug 1929 <::><::><::> 11 Nov 2004



“Choose your friends
carefully.
Your enemies will
choose you”

Yasser Arafat - www.quoteikon.com



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4/24 Aug 1929



11 Nov 2004



Arafat (right) with his sister Khadija and brother Fathi in Cairo, 1942



Arafat with Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader, Nayef Hawatmeh and Palestinian writer Kamal Nasser at press conference in Amman, 1970



Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser (center) mediating an agreement between Arafat and Jordanian King Hussein to end to the Black September conflict, during the emergency Arab League summit, September 1970



Yasser Arafat visits East Germany in 1971; background: Brandenburg Gate



Yasser Arafat with Bhim Singh, founder of Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party, in the 1970s



Arafat in a Palestinian refugee camp in Southern Lebanon, 1978



Arafat with Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish (center) and PFLP leader George Habash (right) in Syria, 1980



Arafat with Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, days after Iranian Revolution



Yitzhak Rabin, Bill Clinton, and Arafat during the Oslo Accords on 13 September 1993



Arafat, Shimon Peres and Rabin receiving the Nobel Peace Prize following the Oslo Accords, 10 December 1994



Arafat with PNA cabinet members Yasser Abed Rabbo (left) and Nabil Shaath (right) at a meeting in Copenhagen, 1999



Arafat with Ehud Barak and Bill Clinton at Camp David Summit, 2000



Honour guard at attention over Yasser Arafat's tombstone in mausoleum, opened 10 November 2007 at the PNA presidential headquarters in Ramallah



Arafat mausoleum

Yasser Arafat

ياسر عرفات



Arafat in 1996

1st [President of the Palestinian National Authority](#)

In office

5 July 1994 – 11 November 2004

Prime Minister

- [Mahmoud Abbas](#)
- [Ahmed Qurei](#)

Succeeded by

[Rawhi Fattouh](#) (interim)
Mahmoud Abbas

1st [President of the State of Palestine](#)

In office

2 April 1989 – 11 November 2004

Prime Minister

Mahmoud Abbas
Ahmed Qurei

Succeeded by

Rawhi Fattouh (interim)
Mahmoud Abbas

3rd [Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization](#)

In office

4 February 1969 – 29 October 2004

Preceded by

[Yahya Hammuda](#)


Succeeded by

Mahmoud Abbas

Personal details

Born

Mohammed Abdel Rahman Abdel
Raouf Arafat al-Qudwa al-Husseini

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| | 4 or 24 August 1929 Cairo, Kingdom of Egypt |
| Died | 11 November 2004 (aged 75) Clamart , Hauts-de-Seine, France |
| Resting place | Arafat's compound |
| Political party | Fatah |
| Spouse | Suha Arafat |
| | (m. 1990) |
| Children | 1 |
| Alma mater | University of King Fuad I |
| Profession | Civil engineer |
| Signature |  |
| Nickname | Abu Ammar |

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasser_Arafat

Yasser Arafat (4 or 24 August 1929 – 11 November 2004), also popularly known by his [kunya](#) **Abu Ammar**, was a Palestinian political leader. He was [chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization](#) (PLO) from 1969 to 2004, [President of the State of Palestine](#) from 1989 to 2004 and [President of the Palestinian Authority](#) (PNA) from 1994 to 2004. Ideologically an [Arab nationalist](#) and a [socialist](#), Arafat was a founding member of the [Fatah](#) political party, which he led from 1959 until 2004.

Arafat was born to Palestinian parents in [Cairo](#), Egypt, where he spent most of his youth. He studied at the [University of King Fuad I](#). While a student, he embraced Arab nationalist and [anti-Zionist](#) ideas. Opposed to the 1948 creation of the [State of Israel](#), he fought alongside the [Muslim Brotherhood](#) during the [1948 Arab-Israeli War](#). Following the defeat of Arab forces, Arafat returned to Cairo and

served as president of the [General Union of Palestinian Students](#) from 1952 to 1956.

In the latter part of the 1950s, Arafat co-founded Fatah, a paramilitary organization which sought Israel's replacement with a Palestinian state. Fatah operated within several Arab countries, from where it launched attacks on Israeli targets. In the latter part of the 1960s Arafat's profile grew; in 1967 he joined the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and in 1969 was elected chair of the [Palestinian National Council](#) (PNC). Fatah's growing presence in Jordan resulted in [military clashes](#) with [King Hussein](#)'s Jordanian government and in the early 1970s it relocated to Lebanon. There, Fatah assisted the [Lebanese National Movement](#) during the [Lebanese Civil War](#) and continued its attacks on Israel, resulting in the organization becoming a major target of Israeli invasions during the [1978 South Lebanon conflict](#) and [1982 Lebanon War](#).

From 1983 to 1993, Arafat based himself in Tunisia, and began to shift his approach from open conflict with the Israelis to negotiation. In 1988, he [acknowledged](#) Israel's [right to exist](#) and sought a [two-state solution](#) to the [Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#). In 1994, he returned to Palestine, settling in [Gaza City](#) and promoting self-governance for the [Palestinian territories](#). He engaged in a series of negotiations with the Israeli government to end the conflict between it and the PLO. These included the [Madrid Conference of 1991](#), the 1993 [Oslo Accords](#) and the [2000 Camp David Summit](#). The success of the negotiations in Oslo led to Arafat being awarded the [Nobel Peace Prize](#), alongside Israeli Prime Ministers [Yitzhak Rabin](#) and [Shimon Peres](#), in 1994. At the time, Fatah's support among the Palestinians declined with the growth of [Hamas](#) and other militant rivals. In late 2004, after effectively being confined within [his Ramallah compound](#) for

over two years by the Israeli army, Arafat fell into a coma and died. While the [cause of Arafat's death](#) has remained the subject of speculation, investigations by Russian and French teams determined no foul play was involved.

Arafat remains a controversial figure. Palestinians generally view him as a [martyr](#) who symbolized the national aspirations of his people, while many Israelis regarded him as a terrorist. Palestinian rivals, including [Islamists](#) and several [PLO radicals](#), frequently denounced him as corrupt or too submissive in his concessions to the Israeli government.

(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)

Nobel Peace Prize 1994



Photo from the Nobel Foundation archive.

Yasser Arafat
Nobel Peace Prize 1994

Born: 24 August 1929, Cairo, Egypt

Died: 11 November 2004, Paris, France

Residence at the time of the award: Palestine

Role: Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO;

President of the Palestinian National Authority

Prize motivation: "for their efforts to create peace in the
Middle East"

Prize share: 1/3

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1994/arafat/facts/>

A Pistol and an Olive Branch

In 1974, Yasser Arafat addressed the UN General Assembly. He said he was holding an olive branch for peace in one hand and a freedom fighter's pistol in the other. Twenty years later he and the Israeli leaders Peres and Rabin received the Peace Prize for having opted for the olive branch by signing the so-called Oslo Accords in Washington. The agreement was aimed at reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Arafat grew up in Cairo and Jerusalem. He took part in the war against the new state of Israel in 1948, when many Palestinians were expelled. As a qualified engineer, he took a job in Kuwait. From there, he organized the guerrilla group Fatah, which attacked Israel. Following Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, Arafat became the leader of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization), an umbrella organization for Palestinian guerrilla groups. The groups resorted to terror to attract world attention, but it gradually became clear to Arafat that he would have to accept the state of Israel for the USA to be willing to mediate in the dispute. He approved the meeting of Palestinian negotiators with Israelis at secret negotiations in Oslo.

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1994/arafat/biographical/>

Black September

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September

Black September

Part of the [Arab Cold War](#)



Smoke rises over Amman during clashes between the Jordanian military and the Palestinian fedayeen, 1 October 1970

Date 6 September 1970 - 23 July 1971
(10 months, 2 weeks and 3 days)

Location Jordan











Result Jordanian victory









- [Syrian invasion](#) repelled
- Palestinian militants expelled to [Lebanon](#)
- Formation of the [Black September Organization](#)

Belligerents

| | |
|--|---|
|  PLO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  Fatah •  Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) •  Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) |  Jordan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordanian Armed Forces |
|  Syria (until November 1970) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syrian Armed Forces • Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) | |
| Supported by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  Organization of Iranian People's Fedai Guerrillas (OIPFG) •  People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (MEK) | |

Commanders and leaders

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  Yasser Arafat •  Abu Jihad •  Abu Ali Iyad † •  George Habash •  Nayef Hawatmeh •  Salah Jadid | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  Hussein •  Habis Majali •  Zaid ibn Shaker •  Wasfi Tal |
|--|---|

| Strength | |
|---|---|
|  15,000–40,000  10,000  300 tanks (two armoured, one mechanized infantry brigade) |  65,000–74,000 |
| Casualties and losses | |
|  3,400 killed  600 casualties  120 tanks and APCs lost |  537 killed |

Black September ([Arabic](#): أيلول الأسود *Aylūl al- 'Aswad*), also known as the **Jordanian Civil War**, was an armed conflict between [Jordan](#), led by [King Hussein](#), and the [Palestine Liberation Organization](#) (PLO), led by chairman [Yasser Arafat](#). The main phase of the fighting took place between 16 and 27 September 1970, though certain aspects of the conflict continued until 17 July 1971.

After the 1967 [Six-Day War](#), [Palestinian fedayeen](#) guerrillas relocated to Jordan and stepped up their attacks against Israel and what had become the [Israeli-occupied West Bank](#). They were headquartered at the Jordanian border town of [Karameh](#), which Israel targeted during the [Battle of Karameh](#) in 1968, leading to a surge of Arab support for the fedayeen. The PLO's strength grew, and by early 1970, leftist groups within the PLO began calling for the overthrow of Jordan's [Hashemite monarchy](#), leading to violent clashes in June 1970. Hussein hesitated to oust them from the country, but continued PLO activities in Jordan culminated in the [Dawson's Field hijackings](#) of 6 September 1970. This involved the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#) (PFLP) seizing three civilian passenger flights and forcing their landing in the Jordanian city of [Zarqa](#), where they took foreign nationals as hostages and blew up the planes in front of international press. Hussein saw this as the last straw and ordered the [Jordanian Army](#) to take action.

On 17 September 1970, the Jordanian Army surrounded cities with a significant PLO presence, including [Amman](#) and [Irbid](#), and began targeting fedayeen posts that were operating from [Palestinian refugee camps](#). The next day, 10,000 Syrian troops bearing [Palestine Liberation Army](#) (PLA) markings began an [invasion](#) by advancing towards Irbid, which the fedayeen had occupied and declared to be a "liberated" city. On 22 September, the Syrians withdrew from Irbid after suffering heavy losses to a coordinated aerial–ground offensive by the Jordanians. Mounting pressure from other Arab countries, such as [Iraq](#), led Hussein to halt his offensive. On 13 October, he signed an agreement with Arafat to regulate the fedayeen's presence in Jordan. However, the Jordanian military attacked again in January 1971, and the fedayeen were driven out of the cities, one by one, until 2,000 surrendered after they were

encircled during the [Ajlun offensive](#) on 23 July, formally marking the end of the conflict.

Jordan allowed the fedayeen to relocate to [Lebanon](#) via Syria, where they later became involved in the [Lebanese Civil War](#). The Palestinian [Black September Organization](#) was founded after the conflict to carry out attacks against Jordanian authorities in response to the fedayeen's expulsion; their most notable attack was the [assassination of Jordanian prime minister Wasfi Tal](#) in 1971, as he had commanded parts of the military operations against the fedayeen. The following year, the organization shifted its focus to attacking Israeli targets and carried out the [Munich massacre](#) against Israeli athletes. Though the events of Black September did not reflect a Jordanian–Palestinian divide, as there were Jordanians and Palestinians on both sides of the conflict, it paved the way for such a divide to emerge subsequently.



King Hussein after checking an abandoned Israeli tank on 21 March 1968 during the Battle of Karamah. The perceived joint Palestinian-Jordanian victory led to an upsurge in support for the fedayeen in Jordan.



Fedayeen of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in Jordan, early 1969



PFLP patrol in Amman, 12 June 1970



Dawson's Field aircraft being blown up in Zarga by PFLP fedayeen in front of international press, 12 September 1970

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Palestinian Casualties of War

This is a list of [casualties](#) suffered by [Palestinians](#) in war.

Note: Article is not comprehensive. Some records of Palestinian casualties are under dispute. The criteria used for this article: Casualties inflicted by war or combat. Casualties considered to be "unnecessary deaths" not included. Graph only includes casualties of Palestinian Arabs and no other actors. Bold indicates major actors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_casualties_of_war

Palestinian political violence

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_political_violence



Palestinian *fedayeen* at a Fatah rally in Beirut, Lebanon in 1979



Hamas' military wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, on parade in 2011

Palestinian political violence refers to acts of violence or terrorism committed by [Palestinians](#) with the intent to accomplish political goals, and often carried out in the context of the [Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#). Common objectives of [political violence](#) by Palestinian groups include [self-determination](#) in and sovereignty over all of the [region of Palestine](#) (including seeking to [replace Israel](#)), or the recognition of a Palestinian state inside the [1967 borders](#). This includes the objective of ending the [Israeli occupation](#). More limited goals include the release of [Palestinian prisoners](#) held by Israel and recognition of the [Palestinian right of return](#).

Palestinian groups that have been involved in politically motivated violence include the [Palestine Liberation Organization](#) (PLO), [Fatah](#), the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#) (PFLP), the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command](#) (PFLP-GC), the [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#), the [Abu](#)

Nidal Organization, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Hamas. Several of these groups are considered terrorist organizations by the governments of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, New Zealand and the European Union.

Palestinian political violence has targeted Israelis, Palestinians, Lebanese, Jordanians, Egyptians, Americans, and citizens of other countries. Attacks have taken place both within Israel and the Palestinian territories as well as internationally and have been directed at both military and civilian targets. Tactics have included hostage taking, plane hijacking, boat hijacking, stone and improvised weapon throwing, improvised explosive device (IED), knife attacks, shooting sprees, vehicle-ramming attacks, car bombs and assassinations. In the 1990s, groups seeking to disrupt the Israeli-Palestinian peace process began adopting suicide bombings, predominantly targeting civilians, which later peaked during the Second Intifada. In recent decades, violence has also included rocket attacks on Israeli urban centers. The October 7, 2023, attacks resulted in massacres, and hostage-taking.

Israeli statistics state that 3,500 Israelis have been killed as a result of Palestinian political violence since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. Suicide bombings constituted 0.5% of Palestinian attacks against Israelis in the first two years of the Al Aqsa Intifada; though this percentage accounted for half of the Israelis killed in that period. As of 2022, a majority of Palestinians, 59%, believe armed attacks against Israelis inside Israel are an effective measure to end the occupation, with 56% supporting them.

(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)(☺)

Interview

Shattered Dreams of Peace

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/oslo/interviews/arafat.html>



The film starts with the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin. I wanted to ask you, how did you feel that day, looking at this funeral of Rabin, your comment.

My partner. It was very, very difficult and painful for me personally, and for all the Palestinians, and many of his friends all over the world. ...

Then we had the big moment, when we had the impressions that the peace process was going very well. We had the withdrawal from the Palestinian towns, Ramallah, Jenin, Nablus. And [in the film] we show you in Bethlehem on the roof of the church. And you made a very beautiful speech. Do you remember how you felt at that moment?

Look, I am sorry to say that they are escalating their military activities again and stole our cities and towns and villages and camps against all our people. You can see by yourself the humiliation which our people are facing on all the checkpoints. And not only that, they had destroyed many of our establishments. ...

I am speaking about now. But this gave us how the whole attitude ... had changed while we're-- I will give you one example. When my partner Rabin was obliged to close Gaza Strip, when we started [Gaza, Jericho](#) first, I was astonished when he sent me money. I told him, "Why you are sending this money for?" He said, "For job creations. Otherwise, these laborers will be against you and against me."

And this is a very important point to which I want to stress upon, that the most important thing for the Palestinians and for the Israelis and for the whole Middle East area is to return back to protect the peace of the brave which I had signed with my partner, Rabin, and to live together as we had decided, in our state and in their state. And Jerusalem to be the capital of two states, as Rome is the capital of two states. The capital of His Holiness, the Pope, and the capital of the Italian government; Brussels, the capital of the European Union, and the capital of Belgium.

Mr. President, let's go back to the election of [Netanyahu](#). Before, everybody told you, "Help Peres, because Netanyahu will be a catastrophe." And after the election, the same people came back to you and told you Netanyahu was pragmatic, you can make business with him, you can make an agreement with him. You were worried about the election of Netanyahu. You believed this guy can make an agreement with you?

The Likud Party, not to forget that they were -- the majority of them, not all of them, but a big section of them -- were against the [Oslo agreement](#).

How did you feel when you shake the hand of Netanyahu for the first time in Erez [in September 1996]?

Not to forget, not only shaking hand. We had many agreements with him; [Hebron agreement](#), as an example. We had completed it with him. The [Wye River agreement](#).

... The Hebron Agreement was very important because it was signed by the Israeli right, for you?

It was very important, no doubt. And also, we went to Wye River and we signed another agreement under the supervision of President Clinton. And not Netanyahu alone; Netanyahu and Sharon. They were together.

Sharon refused to shake your hand?

Never mind. But in the end, both of us accepted the agreement.

You said to several people in Wye River at the beginning, "This man, Netanyahu, will not implement the agreement." You believed it?

The most important thing [was] that a part of Wye River agreement had been implemented, not all of it. This is one of the most important facts.

When you heard that the Israelis were packing their luggage and going -- remember, they made this exercise in Wye River. You believed they would stay or they would go?

In Wye River?

Yeah.

No. It was clear and obvious that they want to squeeze me and to squeeze the Palestinian delegation. But the time had passed and they returned back to the negotiations under the supervision of President Clinton and the full participation of the American administration in every details.

Though it was in the last night and moment where you got up from the table, and President Clinton also, and left Netanyahu alone because Netanyahu told you, "Give me Jabali [the Palestinian police chief] or make Jabali disappear, Ghazi Jabali." Do you remember that?

Yes, I remember. But it had been solved, the most important thing and we have this agreement of Wye River. And we cannot forget the effort which had been done by His Excellency President Clinton.

He came afterwards to Gaza.

Um-hmm.

This visit of an American [president] in Gaza, making the strongest declaration ever for the Palestinian, for you. This is--

Not only that, he opened Gaza Airport, which had been now completely destroyed. Can you imagine? Is this for security? And the harbor, which was under construction with a French and Dutch company, also had been destroyed. Many of our infrastructures had been destroyed by the bombs and by the--

When Barak was elected, you were very hopeful. ...

Not to forget that we were trying to do all our best with him. I will give you many examples. We went many times [to] the White House, have discussions in the White House. And after that in Camp David, and after that, in Paris. You remember? And after that, in Sharm el-Sheik, and after that, in Sharm el-Sheik. And after that in Taba.

Can we go over these examples? It's the first meeting in Erez. You came out in a very bad mood because Barak told you he does not want to make the third redeployment. Remember that?

He delayed it, no doubt. And we then implemented the second agreement of Wye River.

At first, you didn't want to go straight to the final-status talks. Why?

Who told you?

The first meeting.

No, no, no. I was insisting to follow-up all the details in the interim period and the final status.

After Sharm el-Sheik, everything started again to go. But then the Israelis stopped negotiating because they started negotiations with Syrians. You were worried that this might delay the Palestinian track?

No. ... The agreement with the Jordanians, as an example, didn't stop us. Any agreement with any Arab countries will not stop us. But he used it to lose time. But, definitely, we are not against it. ... We had agreed upon from the beginning in Madrid Conference [is] the implementation of [U.N. resolutions] 242 and 338 and 425 for Lebanon. And we were not alone there. Many Arab countries had attended the conference. Many international high leaders had attended this conference. And everywhere there was a very important attitude to push the peace in the Middle East.

You started two tracks [of] negotiations with the Israelis: [Israeli negotiator] Oded Eran with [Palestinian negotiator] Yasser Abed Rabbo and also Shlomo Ben-Ami with Abu Ala; and also the Stockholm

track. One was important. One was less important. What did you achieve in Stockholm?

Many of our understanding had been discussed in Stockholm. But, sorry to say that this had been stopped. ... I will tell you one example on Barak. You remember after our very important discussion which we had made it under the supervision of [France's] President Chirac in his office?

In October?

In his office. And with the participation of the Americans, headed by [U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine] Albright, and with the participation of Mr. Kofi Annan [of the U.N.], and the Israeli and Palestinian delegations. And we have very important discussions. And we arrive to very important platform, which we continued. After that, the details of it, until half past four in the early morning.

And we had agreed upon that we will go to [Sharm el-Sheik](#) to sign it with the presence of President [Hosni] Mubarak [of Egypt]. The Palestinian delegation arrived there. The American delegation arrived there. But we stayed there more than six hours. At last, they received a note that he [Barak] will not come.

They say *you* didn't want to sign at first.

You can ask--

Albright?

No, his Excellency President Chirac. And also, our friend, the foreign minister, he was continuing in the details also with us.

Let's go back if I may before Camp David. Albright came to Ramallah. You had two or three meetings with her. The Israelis wanted a summit. What did you tell her? You told Albright you are not ready. You think they are not ready for a summit.

... Simply, I told her, before this, we are in need of the accurate preparation so that not to make any confrontation. And this had been used not only between us and them; this had been used in all negotiations all over the world. The preparation is very important for any negotiations.

You remember, the Americans and the Vietnamese continued about five years in Paris until they arrived to the final agreement. And she had accepted, with me, for the preparation. But we had been surprised when they started directly.

Before that, the Israelis didn't give what they promised -- the three villages, Abu Dis?

Oh, not only Abu Dis, this had been even accepted by the Knesset. And in spite of that, Barak didn't implement it. This had been discussed in the Knesset. And the Knesset accepted it. And in spite of that, he didn't--

The Americans told us that you saw Clinton the beginning of June, before Albright was here. And you told him that, because you didn't get the villages, because Barak didn't implement, you didn't believe anymore in Barak. You lost confidence.

Actually, the most important thing, for your information, many activities had been agreed upon with Barak, as I had mentioned to you the agreements which had been done in the presence of President Chirac, and in the presence of Albright, and in the presence of Kofi Annan. He escaped and didn't accept to attach us in Sharm el-Sheik, while he had agreed upon with the Egyptians to sign it there in the presence of President Mubarak.

And not only that, when he gave permission for Sharon to visit the Haram as-Sharif [the Muslim name for the Temple Mount], I went to his house. ... Abu Ala [a senior Palestinian negotiator] was also meeting. Abu Mazen [Arafat's deputy] was at the meeting. Saeb Erekat [a senior Palestinian negotiator] was also meeting. And we went and he was preparing a dinner for us. And with him there was Amnon Shahak [former chief of staff of Israeli army], Gilead Sher [chief Israeli negotiator at the time], [former Foreign Minister] Shlomo Ben-Ami, ... Danny Yatom [former head of Mossad], and Danny Abraham. Danny Abraham is a very important American businessman who still working for the peace process. ... I told him not to forget that your hero, Moshe Dayan, when he occupied East Jerusalem, some fanatic figures raised the Israeli flag. He came by himself and took it over and gave a very important order to prevent these visits. I mentioned it to him [Barak]. "Why you aren't doing it now?" Why he didn't visit Sharm el-Sheik when he was the second man after Netanyahu? Why he didn't visit it when he was a hero of the Israeli army after the '73 war. ... Why he didn't do it during Begin? Why he didn't do it when Shamir was there? Why he is doing it now and you accepting? And you had to put in your consideration that this visit will make a big story, not only with us, [but] with all the Muslims all over the world.

He didn't listen to me. And the visit had been done. And the army, the next day, also followed up. And some of them had been, our players had been killed, 19 had been killed. And more than 70 had been wounded.

If I may go back to [Camp David](#)? You couldn't accept the proposals in Camp David. Why?

Because there are some points which, if you are in my place, you will not accept it. I will give you the control ... of the airspace. ... And also, I accepted for them ... early-warning station. ... Early warning station, three, with the participation of the Americans and the participation of the Palestinians.

You know that we are now essentially the only people who are under occupation? Who can accept this?

But they are insisting to have, also, big -- not only military, big military bases with all armaments in Jordan Valley under their control. What's the meaning of that? And also, the borders between us and the Egyptians. Who can accept that? I told him, OK. Why not to be like Sinai, international forces headed by the Americans? Or like Syria, Golan Heights,

or like south Lebanon, also international forces? Why only the Palestinians will accept your conditions? And not only that, some very critical points for our sacred Christian and Muslim holy places. As an example, the control of the Armenian quarter with all its churches. Who can accept this? I told him, "You have to remember" -- in front of Clinton -- "I cannot betray my brothers to the Armenians." And also, they have to control the area in which Santa Maria church is there. ... And they didn't reply.

Also, they have the sovereignty beyond the Harem as-Sharif. And we have the control over the Harem as-Sharif. Who can accept this? For this, if you remember, when I returned, I asked for immediate meeting for the Committee of Jerusalem of the Islamic Conference. And for the first time, I asked His Majesty, the King of Morocco, King Mohammed VI, that special representatives for all the mosques and for all the churches in Jerusalem will participate with us. And he accepted.

And after that, they had participated also in the Islamic Conference, took place in Qatar. And the meeting of the Foreign Affairs, Islamic Foreign-- And recently, in the meeting also of Jerusalem which took place recently, one week ago in Morocco, and I offered to them what had been offered to me. And this had been refused.

They say the Jewish temple is under the Harem.

I am giving you one example. During all this period of occupation this part, they had excavated everywhere. And no one single stone from the temple had been found. ... But I had accepted, officially, the Jewish Quarter and the passage to the Jewish Quarter, and the passage to the Wailing Wall. And this is the holy places which had been given to them by the British Committee ...

The parameters of Clinton in December, 94, 96 percent of the West Bank. In Jerusalem--

Ninety?

Between 94 and 96.

No, no, no. They were speaking about, in the beginning, in Camp David, they were speaking about 88. Then we stressed pushing, pushing. They said, "OK,

92." I told them, "I accept." But to mix what? In value and in the area, not only to give me desert in the same value. No. The value and the size.

Then we get in December the parameters of Clinton. ... You had the phone call from Clinton. And you go to the United States, to Washington, to talk with Clinton about his parameters. ... What did you tell Clinton? Did you accept his parameters?

I had received a letter from him and I replied him in details about what can be done from our side which would be accepted by the Arab nation and by the Christians and by the Muslims. Because these sacred holy places are not only for the Palestinians; it is for all Muslims and for all Christians. And I asked some explanation of what had been written in his letter about it.

You wrote about the refugees.

Yes.

What was your position on the refugees?

I told him, this had been accepted from the beginning by the Americans, by the whole world. It was the resolution of the United Nations, General Assembly 194. And I told him, in spite of that, "Let us start as we had agreed upon with the displaced refugees of '67." Specially, there is a committee of the four: Jordanian, Egyptians, Israelis, Palestinians. And we were working with it.

But it had been stopped. I told him, "Let us return back to what had been agreed upon, to push for the displaced. And the refugees, let us start directly with our refugees in Lebanon because they are suffering. They haven't the ability to work according to the laws." In 60 or 71 or 68 posts, they haven't the ability to work.

And also to solve the Lebanese problem, President Clinton asked me how many [refugees] they are. I told him, when I was there, they were 480,000. But I had heard now they are about 301,000. But it had been informed to me later upon, they are about 220,000. And, in general, this had been discussed, but not settled completely.

They could have come back to Israel?

Yes, according to [U.N. Resolution] 194.

But the Israelis said this makes for them a big demographic problem.

He had mentioned this. I gave him what had been written. It is still in my pocket, what has been written in *Ha'aretz*, that more than 62 percent of those who came from the Soviet Union areas, which are now different countries, 62 percent are not Jews. The majority of them, more than 90 percent of them, are Christians and around 10 percent of them are Muslims. ... Then how [does] the Christian

or the Muslim who is coming from Soviet Union have the right to go to our homes? And the Palestinian Christians and the Palestinian Muslims haven't the right to their homes?

At one of your talks with President Clinton, you told him, "If I have the state, with Jerusalem as a capital, with the Haram, the demographic problem of Israel will be solved." Remember that?

Yes. Do you know how many Palestinians are there in East Jerusalem? More than 270,000. They will return back as Palestinians. But the most important difference is not about when I discuss about the displaced and of Lebanon; it was not the main issue. The main issue was the holy sacred places and the area.

This must be solved first?

Yes.

Then you can find solution for the others?

We have to find the solutions for them together. This is what had been discussed in details with President Clinton, with Barak, who was very ... excited. And he stayed three days in his villa not accepting to meet anybody or to leave it. And, in spite of that, we continue with the rest of his delegation.

Then after Camp David, there were secret negotiations between Gilead Sher and [Saeb Erekat](#).

Until now, I didn't stop any contacts with the Israelis. Security meeting yesterday, ... with the American participation, with the speaker of the Knesset and the speaker of our ... council, ... and Abu Ala, recently it was in Paris. The first meeting was with Prime Minister Jospin, and the second meeting was President Chirac. And also, Sharon, and also permanent contacts with his son, Omri. And also, the talks are still going. Recently, yesterday, in New York, between Abu Ala and Mr. Shimon Peres.

Two more questions for the history, which is very important because you are part of this history. Why couldn't you stop the intifada the way you succeeded, you with the Israelis, in stopping the problem of '96 after the tunnel? After the tunnel, you succeeded.

I told you I succeeded. And I succeeded many times. But they started the field of the thorns, military plan. And the ... "hell plan." And now, the rolling plan, escalating, escalating, escalating. What the meaning of their tanks some meters far of here? Thirty meters or 25 meters? Approximately.

How do you deal with these tanks here?

It is not the first time. ... You remember the big battle which they had mentioned that the tanks had advanced 10 meters in the ... area, while the length of the tank is 13.6 meters with its gun? The most important thing [is] not myself. The most important thing [is] how to let our people feel that they are living not under occupation, not under humiliation, not under poverty. Do you know that they had reserved all of our precious taxes, which is more now than \$1 billion? It is our taxes. And they had kicked out 132 laborers working in Israel, now for 16 months.

And not only that, they had destroyed many of our factories. Not only that, they had uprooted approximate 50 percent of our olive trees. ... What is the meaning of that? How many thousands of families have lost their income? And also, they are bulldozing the farms everywhere and destroying the houses everywhere, and the infrastructures, including some hospitals, and some schools, and including some holy places.

What are you negotiating with Abu Maze,n with Sharon? What are the negotiations advancing?

This is a new start. We hope that ... it is not only for his visit to Washington. We hope that it will continue. We didn't stop any contacts. You remember we sent a delegation when Yossi Bellin [a leader of the Israeli left] accept to participate with us in the negotiations under the supervision of President Mbeki. President Mbeki is also representing, as he is the president of South Africa and also the [non-aligned movement].

You believe you could have made an agreement in [Taba](#)? Or it was too late because of the elections?

It was -- No. But we had arrived. If there was a time-- We had agreed upon that, after the election, we will continue. And we were hoping that within maximum six weeks, we will finish it.

The new American administration is not helpful?

Not to forget, he is a new president and he is in need of time, as any new president. And the same time, what had happened in last September was a disaster for the whole world. And, for your information, as you remember, I was the first to send my condolences for him and we declared our donation. Again, it's this dramatic, what had been done from these fanatic groups.

On one hand, you have Abu Mazen, Abu Ala talking to Sharon. On the other hand Sharon [says] he regrets not having killed you. [Ed. Note: In an interview with an Israeli newspaper published in February 2002, Sharon reportedly said that he regretted not having killed Arafat in Lebanon in 1982. When Israel invaded Lebanon that year, Sharon was Israel's defense minister.]

As I have mentioned to you, I am not looking for myself. I am looking to find something concrete for our people to live freely in their independent state as all other people all over the world. You know that we are now essentially the only people who are under occupation? Who can accept this? And where? In the Terra Santa? Can this be accepted for the whole world?

The peace, in the land of peace, in the Terra Santa, is not only for the Palestinians. It's for the Palestinians, for the Israelis, for the whole Middle East area, for the whole world.

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Lebanese Civil War

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanese_Civil_War

Lebanese Civil War

Part of the [Cold War](#), [Arab Cold War](#), [Arab–Israeli conflict](#), [Iran–Israel](#) and [Iran–Saudi proxy wars](#)





Left-to-right from top:

Monument at Martyrs' Square in the city of Beirut; the USS New Jersey firing a salvo off of the Lebanese coast; smoke seen rising from the ruins of the American barracks in Beirut shortly after the 1983 bombing; a Palestinian rally for Fatah in Beirut

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Date | 13 April 1975 – 13 October 1990 ^[Note 1] (15 years and 6 months) |
| Location | Lebanon |
| Result | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taif Agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian-to-Muslim representation in Parliament of Lebanon adjusted from ratio of 55:45 to 50:50^[2] • Political powers of Muslim-reserved position of Prime Minister strengthened over Christian-reserved position of President • Disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, excluding Iran-backed Hezbollah^[3] • Continued hostilities between Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and PLO expulsion to Tunis, Tunisia in 1982. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expulsion of Palestinian militias from Lebanon after the Battle of Sidon in 1991 • Collapse of the Israel-backed State of Free Lebanon in 1984 and of Israel's South Lebanon security belt administration in 2000 |

| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in the Shebaa Farms conflict, eventually leading to the 2006 Lebanon War Dominance of Hezbollah armed strength across Lebanon since 1990 | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Territorial changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syria occupies northern/eastern Lebanon until 30 April 2005 Israel occupies southern Lebanon until 25 May 2000 | | | |
| Belligerents | | | |
| show <div>  Lebanese Front </div> | <div>  Lebanese National Movement (1975–1982) </div> <div>  Jammoul (1982–1990) </div> | <div>  Syria (1976, 1983–1991) </div> <div>  Amal Movement </div> | <div>  Lebanese Armed Forces </div> |
| <div>  Army of Free Lebanon (until 1977) </div> | <div>  PLO (1975–83) </div> <div>  ASALA </div> | <div>  PNSF Marada Brigades (left LF in 1978; aligned with Syria) </div> | <div>  UNIFIL (from 1978) </div> <div> Multinational Force in Lebanon (1982–1984) </div> |
| <div>  SLA (from 1976) </div> <div>  Israel (from 1978) </div> | <div>  Hezbollah (1985–1990) </div> <div>  Iran (from 1980, mainly IRGC and Army paramilitary units) </div> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">  United States  UK  France  Italy |
| <div>  Tigers Militia (until 1980) </div> | <div>  Islamic Unification Movement (from 1982) </div> | | <div>  Arab Deterrent Force (1976–1982)^[1] </div> <div> show <div>List</div> </div> |
| Commanders and leaders | | | |
| <div>  Bachir Gemayel † </div> | <div>  Kamal Jumblatt † </div> <div>  Walid Jumblatt </div> | <div>  Hafez al-Assad </div> | <div>  Michel Aoun </div> |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
|  Amine Gemayel  William Hawi †  Elie Hobeika  Samir Geagea  Etienne Saqr  Georges Adwan  Saad |  Inaam Raad  Abdallah Saadeh  Assem Qanso  George Hawi  Elias Atallah  Muhsin Ibrahim  Ibrahim Kulaylat  Ali Eid  Yasser Arafat  George Habash  Hagop Hagopian  Monte Melkonian |  Mustafa Tlass  Nabih Berri Tony Frangieh † |  Emmanuel Erskine  William O'Callaghan  Gustav Hägglund  Timothy J. Geraghty |
| Haddad #  Antoine Lahad  Menache |  Subhi al-Tufayli  Abbas al-Musawi | | |
| m Begin  Ariel Sharon  Rafael Eitan  Avigdor Ben-Gal | Said Shaaban | | |
|  Dany Chamoun † | | | |
| Strength | | | |
| |  25,000 troops (1976) ^[1] |  1,200 troops ^[1]  1,000 troops ^[1]  1,000 troops ^[1]  700 troops ^[1]  700 troops ^[1] | |
| 120,000–150,000 people killed ^[4] | | | |

The **Lebanese Civil War** ([Arabic](#): الحرب الأهلية اللبنانية *Al-Ḥarb al-Ahliyyah al-Libnāniyyah*) was a multifaceted armed conflict that took place from 1975 to 1990. It resulted in an estimated 150,000 fatalities^[5] and led to the exodus of almost one million people from [Lebanon](#).^[6]

The religious diversity of the [Lebanese people](#) played a notable role in the lead-up to and during the conflict: [Lebanese Christians](#) and [Lebanese Sunni Muslims](#) comprised the majority in the coastal cities; [Lebanese Shia Muslims](#) were primarily based throughout [southern Lebanon](#) and in the [Bqaa Valley](#) in the east; and [Druze](#) and Christians populated the country's mountainous areas. At the time, the Lebanese government was under the influence of elites within the [Maronite Christian](#) community.^{[7][8]} The link between politics and religion was reinforced under the [French Mandate](#) from 1920 to 1943, and the country's parliamentary structure favoured a leading position for Lebanese Christians, who constituted the majority of the population. However, Lebanon's Muslims comprised a large minority and the influx of thousands of [Palestinians](#)—first in 1948 and again in 1967—contributed to Lebanon's demographic shift towards an eventual Muslim majority. Lebanon's Christian-dominated government had been facing increasing opposition from Muslims, [pan-Arabists](#), and [left-wing](#) groups. The [Cold War](#) also exerted a disintegrative effect on the country, closely linked to the political polarization that preceded the [1958 Lebanese crisis](#). Christians mostly sided with the [Western world](#) while Muslims, pan-Arabists, and leftists mostly sided with [Soviet-aligned Arab countries](#).^[9]

Fighting between [Lebanese Christian militias](#) and [Palestinian insurgents](#), mainly from the [Palestine Liberation Organization](#), began in 1975 and generated an alliance between the Palestinians and Lebanese Muslims, pan-Arabists, and leftists.^[10] The conflict deepened as foreign powers, namely [Syria](#), [Israel](#), and [Iran](#), became involved and supported or fought alongside different factions. Over the course of the conflict, these alliances shifted rapidly and unpredictably. While much of the fighting took place between opposing religious and ideological factions, there was significant conflict within some faith communities, especially amongst both Christians and Shias. Peacekeeping forces, such as the [Multinational Force in Lebanon](#) and the [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon](#), were stationed in Lebanon during this time.

In 1989, the [Taif Agreement](#) marked the beginning of the end for the fighting as a committee appointed by the [Arab League](#) began to formulate solutions to the conflict. In March 1991, the [Parliament of Lebanon](#) passed

an amnesty law that pardoned all political crimes that had been perpetrated prior to the law's time of enactment.^[11] In May 1991, all of the armed factions that had been operating in Lebanon were dissolved, excluding [Hezbollah](#), an Iran-backed [Shia Islamist militia](#). Though the [Lebanese Armed Forces](#) slowly began to rebuild as Lebanon's only major non-sectarian armed institution after the conflict,^[12] the federal government remained unable to challenge [Hezbollah's armed strength](#). Religious tensions, especially between [Shias and Sunnis](#), persisted across Lebanon since the formal end of the hostilities in 1990.^[13]

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Death

Yasser Arafat

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Yasser_Arafat

Death of [Yasser Arafat](#)



Mausoleum of Arafat in Ramallah

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Date | 11 November 2004 |
| Location | Hôpital d'instruction des armées Percy in Clamart , a suburb of Paris, France |
| Outcome | Yasser Arafat's body buried in the Mukaata , which was his compound in Ramallah . |
| Deaths | Yasser Arafat a.k.a. Mohammed Yasser Abdel Rahman Abdel Raouf Arafat al-Qudwa al-Husseini a.k.a. Abu Ammar; 75 |



**Yasser Arafat, November 2004,
shortly before his death**



**Palestinian honor guard stationed at
Arafat's temporary tomb in Ramallah**

Yasser Arafat, who was the President of the Palestinian National Authority and Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, died unexpectedly on 11 November 2004, 75 years of age, after a short period of illness. The cause of his death has since been debated, and several different theories concerning it have been suggested. However, official investigations by French and Russian teams did not find evidence of foul play.

History of illness

Arafat's illness began on 12 October 2004 with nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. Soon afterward, his general health deteriorated. Following visits by other doctors, including teams from Tunisia, Jordan, and Egypt, Arafat was taken to France on a French government jet, and was admitted to the Hôpital d'instruction des armées Percy in Clamart, a suburb of Paris, on 29 October 2004. On admission, he was experiencing diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and generalised abdominal pain, along with mild liver and kidney failure linked to disseminated intravascular coagulation.^[1] His condition deteriorated with acute renal failure, and, on 3 November, he lapsed into a gradually deepening coma.

A controversy erupted between officials of the PNA and Suha Arafat when officials from the PNA traveled to France to see Yasser Arafat. French law forbids physicians from discussing the condition of their patients with anybody, with the exception, in the case of a grave prognosis, of close relatives. Accordingly, all communications concerning Arafat's health had to be authorized by his wife. Palestinian officials expressed regret that the news about Yasser Arafat was "filtered" by her.

The next day, chief surgeon Christian Estripeau of Percy reported that Arafat's condition had worsened, and that he had fallen into a deeper coma.^[6] Sheikh Taissir Tamimi, the head of the Islamic court of the Palestinian territories, who held a vigil at Arafat's bedside, visited Arafat, and declared that it was out of the question to disconnect him from life support, since, according to him, such an action is prohibited in Islam.

Death

Arafat was pronounced dead on 11 November 2004 at 03:30 [UTC](#) at the age of 75 of what French doctors called a massive haemorrhagic [cerebrovascular accident](#). However, the underlying infection was declared unknown. The official statement announcing his death failed to determine a cause, saying only that he had a "mystery blood disorder".

The [Canard Enchaîné](#) newspaper reported alleged leaks of information by unnamed medical sources at Percy hospital that had access to Arafat and his medical file. According to the newspaper, the doctors at Percy hospital suspected, from Arafat's arrival, grave lesions of the liver responsible for an alteration of the composition of the blood; Arafat was therefore placed in a [hematology](#) service. [Leukemia](#) was "soundly ruled out". According to the same source, the reason why this diagnosis of [cirrhosis](#) could not be made available was that, in the mind of the general public, cirrhosis is generally associated with the consequences of alcohol abuse. Even though the diagnosis was not of alcoholic cirrhosis and Arafat was not known for consuming any alcohol, there was a likelihood of rumors. The source explained that Arafat's living conditions did little to improve the situation. Thus, according to the source, the probable causes of the disease were multiple; Arafat's coma was a consequence of the worsened cirrhosis. The French newspaper [Le Monde](#) quoted doctors as saying that he had "an unusual blood disease and a liver problem".

After Arafat's death, the [French Ministry of Defence](#) said that Arafat's medical file would be transmitted to only his [next of kin](#). It was determined that Arafat's nephew and PNA envoy to the UN, [Nasser al-Qudwa](#), was a close enough relative, thus working around Suha Arafat's silence on her husband's illness. Nasser al-Qudwa was given a copy of Arafat's 558-page medical file by the French Ministry of Defence.

Theories about the cause of death

There are numerous theories about the cause of Arafat's death. Initially Arafat's records were withheld by senior Palestinian officials. In 2004, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said after talks with Arafat's French doctors that they had "ruled out poison completely". However, Shaath stated in "The Price of Kings", a documentary on Arafat's leadership, "I have no doubt that he was assassinated. The French said that whatever toxic material was in his body did not test positive in their toxicology table, saying in plain words 'this was a poison we did not have in our laboratories.'"

Al-Kurdi, Arafat's personal physician for 18 years, said "I would usually be summoned to attend to Arafat immediately, even when all he had was a simple cold ... But when his medical situation was really deteriorating, they chose not to call me at all", and Arafat's wife, Suha, refused to allow him to visit Arafat in the private Paris hospital where he was being treated. Later he was denied access to Arafat's body after his death.

Al-Kurdi also lamented that Arafat's widow Suha had refused an autopsy, which he said would have answered many questions regarding cause of death.

Medical records released in 2005 showed that Arafat's doctors could not agree on the cause of death, stating that he died from a stroke that stemmed from an unknown condition. Analysis based on those records suggested him dying from poisoning, AIDS, or an infection. In 2012, newly released medical records revealed that French doctors initially diagnosed Arafat with gastroenteritis.

Poisoning

In 2004, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said after talks with Arafat's French doctors that they had "ruled out poison completely". A 2005 article in [The New York Times](#) said that based on his records it was highly unlikely that Arafat died from poisoning. Meanwhile, al-Kurdi called for the creation of an independent commission to carry out investigations concerning Arafat's suspicious death, stating, "any doctor would tell you that these are the symptoms of a poisoning".

Former Knesset member, peace activist and personal friend of Arafat [Uri Avnery](#) claimed at the time of Arafat's death that he had been poisoned, and repeated the claim in 2012. Another "senior Israeli physician" claimed in an article in [Haaretz](#) that it was "a classic case of food poisoning", probably caused by a meal eaten four hours before he fell ill that may have contained a toxin such as [ricin](#), rather than a standard bacterial poisoning. However, in the same week as the report in *Haaretz*, *The New York Times* published a separate report, also based on access to Arafat's medical records, which claimed that it was highly unlikely that Arafat had [food poisoning](#).

Poisoning with polonium

According to Israel Radio, a former Palestinian intelligence officer, attorney Fahmi Shabana, said that Yasser Arafat's political rivals were responsible for his death, and that he was poisoned with [polonium](#). Shabana, who took part in the investigation into Arafat's death in a French hospital in 2004, also said that several months after his death, the same cell murdered the head of military intelligence in [Gaza](#), General [Moussa Arafat](#), a relative of the PLO leader, in order to prevent a blood feud. The lawyer called on Palestinian Authority president [Mahmoud Abbas](#) to reopen the investigation into Arafat's death."

On [Newsnight](#) on UK TV on 21 January 2016, during a feature on the 2006 assassination of [Alexander Litvinienko](#), [George Galloway](#) claimed to have been with Yasser Arafat in Paris when he died of [polonium-210](#) poisoning.

Al Jazeera's investigation

On 4 July 2012, [Al Jazeera](#) reported that a nine-month investigation by Al Jazeera had revealed that none of the causes of Arafat's death suggested in several rumors were true, as Arafat was in good health until he suddenly fell ill on 12 October 2004. Tests carried out by the *Institut de Radiophysique* (Institute of Radiation Physics) at the [University of Lausanne](#) in [Switzerland](#) found traces of polonium, a rare, highly [radioactive](#) element, on Arafat's personal belongings, including his [toothbrush](#), hat, surgical bouffant (headgear), and underwear, which suggested that there was a high level of polonium inside his body when he died. The investigation ruled out [HIV](#) or any other infectious disease as a cause of death. The polonium was found in quantities much higher than could occur naturally, and further, that 60%–80% of that polonium (depending on the item being tested) had not come from natural sources, but from a nuclear reactor. The quantities found on his personal items at the time of this investigation were generally consistent with quantities of polonium that would have been given to poison him when he suddenly first came down with major symptoms of illness.

In October 2010, an official press release from the Institut de Radiophysique, where those items were analyzed, had stated that:

"an unexplained quantity of Polonium-210 has been detected on the personal effects of Mr. Arafat. However, this is not sufficient to determine the causes of death. In particular, it will be recalled that, contrary to what happened in the case of the former Russian spy [Alexander Litvinenko](#), Mr. Arafat did not lose his hair, and some of the findings in the forensic report are inconsistent with an acute radiation syndrome."

In July 2012, a spokesman for the Institut de Radiophysique stressed that the "clinical symptoms described in Arafat's medical reports were not consistent with polonium-210 and that conclusions could not be drawn as to whether the Palestinian leader was poisoned or not", and that "the only way to confirm the findings would be to exhume Arafat's body to test it for polonium-210". François Bochud, who heads the Institute of Radiation Physics in Lausanne, Switzerland, stated that "our results are clearly not a proof of any poisoning". Alastair Hay, professor of environmental toxicology at the University of Leeds in England, stated: "You don't know much about the provenance of the clothing and whether it had been tampered with later on. You'd want to test the body."

In response to Al Jazeera's report, Dr [Ely Karmon](#), at [Herzliya's Institute for Counterterrorism](#), a specialist in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, said that "the half-life of the substance [i.e., slightly more than 138 days 9 hours] would make it impossible for polonium to have been discovered at such high levels if it had been used to kill Arafat eight years ago. If it had been used for poisoning, minimal levels should be seen now. Yet much higher levels were found. Someone planted the polonium much

later." He went on to question why Arafat's widow, Suha Arafat, who provided the researchers with Arafat's belongings was not also poisoned while she was by his side at the hospital touching him and his clothing.

Israel has denied any connection to the rumours. Deputy Spokesman of [Israeli Foreign Ministry](#) Paul Hirschson was skeptical of the rumours, joking, "All of a sudden, Suha's checking her wash basket and discovered clothes that weren't washed for eight years. Suddenly, out of nowhere a couple of garments turn up; we test them, and presto! There's Polonium." [Avi Dichter](#), who was in charge of the Shin Bet when Arafat died, told Army radio that "Yasser Arafat had many enemies, domestically, abroad. But let them investigate. ... The Palestinians know well how to investigate what goes on in their house. Let them investigate and find out."

On 12 October 2013, the British medical journal [The Lancet](#) published a peer-reviewed article titled "Improving forensic investigation for polonium poisoning". In the article, a group of Swiss doctors suggested that Arafat could have died of polonium poisoning. The team analysed 38 samples of Arafat's clothes and belongings and 37 reference samples which were known to be polonium-free. Several of the Arafat samples were notably more radioactive than the controls, but not all. The team believed that an autopsy could be useful in this case. After testing Arafat's personal belongings and samples of his body fluids, the chief of the Federal Medical-Biological Agency of Russia, [Vladimir Uyba](#), concluded that polonium was not the cause of his death, but the Agency then denied that Uyba's comments were official. British forensic scientist Professor David Barclay said the Swiss team's findings were a "smoking gun", and that it was "absolutely certain" that polonium had been the cause of his death. After the results of the French and Russian tests became public, David Barclay did not comment or communicate any more on the case.

The French tests found some polonium but stated it was from "natural environmental origin". Later the Russian tests released in December 2013 found that Arafat's death was not caused by radiation. [Vladimir Uyba](#), the head of the Russian Federal Medical and Biological Agency, stated that Yasser had died of natural causes and they had no plans to conduct further tests.

Gastroenteritis

New medical records that were released in July 2012 showed that Arafat's condition was initially diagnosed as viral [gastroenteritis](#) by his Arab doctors who took care of him in the [West Bank](#) in the [Mukataa](#) before he was airlifted to France, although his condition later improved and he even joined in the fast of [Ramadan](#). However, there was persistent vomiting and diarrhea, Arafat began feeling weaker, and his blood platelet count dropped. On 28 October, his medical team decided to send him abroad, and he was flown to France the next morning.

Dr Joseph Zimmerman, an Israeli specialist who reviewed the Ramallah medical file said Arafat's early symptoms were not consistent with viral gastroenteritis, and did not believe that type of viral infection would lead to death. He also said that poisoning appeared unlikely, even by a radioactive substance such as polonium-210. He reminded people that Arafat's platelet counts dropped suddenly and stayed low, and that Arafat eventually exhibited signs of liver dysfunction, which could have been caused by a bacterial infection, but is not typical of poisoning.

Platelet disorder

A report by the French doctors who treated him states that a [platelet](#) disorder caused Arafat's death. The cause of this platelet disorder is unknown, although poison is a possibility.

AIDS

In September 2005, based on obtained Arafat records, an Israeli [AIDS](#) expert claimed that Arafat bore all the symptoms of AIDS, while [The New York Times](#) claimed it was highly unlikely that Arafat died from AIDS. [John Loftus](#) reported on ABC radio that Arafat had died of AIDS. According to Loftus, the [CIA](#) had knowledge of his condition, and convinced Israel not to assassinate him and wait for his inevitable death of the disease, since the subsequent widespread connotations of the disease with homosexuality would discredit him. Arafat's personal doctor for 18 years, Dr. Ashraf Al-Kurdi, said there was HIV in his blood, but poison killed him, and al-Kurdi, a former Jordanian official said the virus had been injected into Arafat's bloodstream.

However an article published in a number of American news publications rejected the assertion that Arafat had AIDS, stating, "An Israeli infectious disease specialist said he would have performed the test, if only to be thorough and to refute the rumors that surrounded the case. He said news accounts during Arafat's illness made him strongly suspect that Arafat had AIDS. But after studying the records, he said that was improbable, given the sudden onset of the intestinal troubles", though AIDS-associated opportunistic infections such as [cryptosporidiosis](#) can begin in this way. This same article also states that it is "highly unlikely" that Arafat had died from poisoning, and further asserts that Arafat had died from a stroke linked to an "underlying infection."

Call for new investigation

Following Al Jazeera's investigation, [Suha Arafat](#), Arafat's widow, called for the exhumation of Arafat's body for further testing. In response, Abbas ordered a committee to be formed, and stated that there were no religious or political obstacles to exhuming the body. However, Nimr Hamad, an aide to Abbas, stated that a team of experts would first be sent to [Europe](#) to learn more from the Swiss institute and from the French military hospital where Arafat died. Abbas stated that he would only order an autopsy if the

family agreed, but did not define whom in the family he meant. Later, Abbas stated that they would only investigate "if necessary". Tawfiq Tirawi, the head of the committee in charge of investigating Arafat's death, stated: "We are certain that there are Palestinian hands that contributed to the elimination of Yasser Arafat." With regards to those people, Tirawi stated that they "will be subject to severe penalties and doomed to death". On 30 July 2012, Tirawi added, "We haven't initiated the investigation based on the hypothesis that Arafat was killed by poison, but we agreed to begin an investigation searching directly for the killer regardless of the medical reports which will eventually show the method of killing and name of the toxin."

Tunisia also requested that the [Arab League](#) convene a ministerial meeting to discuss Arafat's death and study the circumstances in which he died.

Arab League Secretary-General [Nabil Elaraby](#) stated that a permanent representative meeting would be held to discuss Arafat's death, and that permanent representatives would prepare a report and raise proposals over necessary action, which they would present in the soonest Arab League ministerial meeting.

Killed by his wife

At the end of a 2024 interview with ex-[Shin Bet](#) agent and Hamas insider [Mosab Hassan Yousef](#), Yousef said that Arafat's wife unplugged him from life support, to steal the USD9 billion Arafat had amassed.

Exhumation of Arafat's remains

On 9 July 2012, Palestinian Authority President [Mahmoud Abbas](#) approved the exhumation of Arafat's body in response to the [Al Jazeera](#) story about [polonium](#). On 8 August 2012, Swiss experts were invited to the West Bank to prepare for the examination of Yasser Arafat's remains to investigate possible poisoning. The lab said that they wanted guarantees that the investigation would not be used for political purposes, saying, "Meanwhile, our main concern is to guarantee the independence, the credibility and the transparency of any involvement that we may have." On 27 November 2012, three teams of international investigators collected samples from Arafat's body and the surrounding soil in the mausoleum in [Ramallah](#). A French, a Swiss and a Russian team independently investigated the samples.

Publication of the results of the studies was delayed, reportedly on the request of the Palestinian Authority, which feared they could have negative impact on the peace talks.

On 6 November 2013, Al Jazeera reported that the Swiss forensic team had found levels of polonium in Arafat's ribs and pelvis 18 times higher than normal, and were 83% confident that polonium poisoning had occurred, but Professor Bochud disagreed with this interpretation by Al Jazeera and

only stated that the poisoning hypothesis by polonium was "moderately supported".

According to a journalist from the Swiss daily newspaper [Le Temps](#), Luis Lema, the Swiss experts had concluded that on a probability scale ranging from one to six, death by polonium poisoning was around five.

Arafat's widow Suha stated her belief that he was a victim of a "political assassination" but refrained from finger-pointing and said she would await the French forensic results.

[Joods Actueel](#), a Belgian monthly newspaper, claimed that most experts in forensics disagreed that the results were consistent with polonium poisoning and that the conclusions of the Swiss study were not in line with the results obtained.

Forensic biologist Nathan Lents of the [John Jay College of Criminal Justice](#) said the report's results were consistent with a possible polonium poisoning, but "There's certainly not a smoking gun here."

Derek Hill, a professor in radiological science at [University College London](#) who was not involved in the investigation, said: "I would say it's clearly not overwhelming proof, and there is a risk of contamination (of the samples), but it is a pretty strong signal. ... It seems likely what they're doing is putting a very cautious interpretation of strong data."

After the testing of Arafat's remains by the Russian team, the Russian Medical-Biological Agency concluded that polonium was not the cause of his death. However, the government scientific body later denied that it had made any official statement about the research, saying only that it had handed its results to the Russian Foreign Ministry. However, Al Jazeera found that the Russian scientists had only investigated four out of 20 samples, being the samples that were unlikely to show the amount of radioactive exposure. The scientists also appear to have been restricted by the Russian Foreign Ministry in how to present the report. According to Al Jazeera's source, "Russia's goal was to fulfill the Palestinian Authority's request, not offend Israel by helping the PA, and not create a new hotbed in the Middle East".

In December 2013, an unidentified person leaked what were claimed to be the results of the French investigation to [AFP](#), saying that "the report rules out the poisoning theory and goes in the sense of a natural death". According to the leaker, the report says Arafat died of a "generalised infection". On 4 December, Al Jazeera quoted Suha Arafat speaking at a press conference after having received the French report: "Is it the poisoned body that would have contaminated the environment outside? Or is it the opposite? The first one is the conclusion of the Swiss. The Swiss think that the body was poisoned and contaminated the environment. And the French reach the opposite conclusion—that it's

actually the environment outside which explains the presence of polonium 210." Later that same month, a Russian investigative team from the Federal Medico-Biological Agency agreed that Arafat did not die from poisoning.

Unlike the Swiss report, the French and Russian reports were not made public, at the time. The French later announced that foul play was not involved.

The [CHUV](#) published in February 2016 a paper in [Science Direct](#) to justify their conclusions. They said: "The evidences gathered during this expert report are not clear-cut: we cannot exclude ^{210}Po as a cause of death, but we cannot be sure that ^{210}Po was the cause of death."

In another document the CHUV explains "...these results do not then define the probability to which Yasser Arafat would have been poisoned by polonium, but must be integrated into the larger context of the police and legal investigations in connection to this case, and which are beyond our field of expertise".

In July 2016, Joods Actueel published an updated document wherein it stated that their previous analysis was confirmed by CHUV. According to them, the conclusions that are based only on [Bayesian analysis](#) are not valid as they are not documented with figures. It also invoked errors based on such examples as the investigation into the case of [Sally Clark](#).

Murder inquiry

After Al Jazeera's presentation in July 2012 of the results of its nine-month investigation, Arafat's widow [Suha Arafat](#) declared her intention to launch a court case in France into the death of her husband. Suha Arafat told Al Jazeera that she had long suspected that her husband was murdered, noting that both Israel and the United States regarded him as an obstacle to peace.

On 31 July 2012, Suha Arafat and her daughter Zahwa lodged a murder complaint in the Paris western suburb of Nanterre. On 28 August, French prosecutors opened a murder inquiry. In March 2015, a French prosecutor announced that Arafat's death was from natural causes, and found that the polonium 210 and lead 210 discovered in Arafat's grave were of an environmental nature.

Later, a French investigation by three judges unanimously concluded that "it has not been demonstrated that Mr Yasser Arafat was murdered by polonium-210 poisoning" and that the investigation should be dropped.

At the end of June 2016, a French Court of Appeal confirmed the previous conclusions.

Allegation of killing of Arafat by Israel

The Israeli government tried for decades to [assassinate](#) Arafat, including attempting to intercept and shoot down private aircraft and commercial [airliners](#) on which he was believed to be traveling. The assassination was initially assigned to Caesarea, the [Mossad](#) unit in charge of Israel's targeted killings. Shooting down a commercial airliner in international airspace over very deep water was thought to be preferable to make recovery of the wreckage, and hence investigation, more difficult. Following Israel's 1982 invasion of [Lebanon](#), Israeli [Minister of Defense Ariel Sharon](#) created a special task force code named "Salt Fish" headed by [special operations](#) experts [Meir Dagan](#) and [Rafi Eitan](#) to track Arafat's movements in Lebanon to kill him because Sharon still saw Arafat as an important symbol. The Salt Fish task force orchestrated the bombing of buildings where Arafat and senior PLO leaders were believed to be staying. Later renamed "Operation Goldfish", Israeli operatives followed Israeli journalist [Uri Avnery](#) to a meeting with Arafat in an additional unsuccessful attempt to eliminate him. In 2001, Sharon, as prime minister, is believed to have made a commitment to cease attempts to assassinate Arafat. However, following Israel's successful assassination in March 2004 of [Sheikh Ahmed Yassin](#), a founder of the Hamas movement, in April 2004 Sharon stated that "this commitment of mine no longer exists."

On September 11, 2003, the [Security Cabinet of Israel](#) decided that "Israel will act to remove this obstacle [Arafat] in the manner, at the time, and in the ways that will be decided on separately". Israeli Cabinet members and officials hinted on Arafat's death.

Journalist [Danny Rubinstein](#) states that [Ariel Sharon](#)'s inner circle constantly discussed how to get rid of Arafat months and weeks before his death.^[86] Israeli peace activist and former [Knesset](#) member, [Uri Avnery](#), a personal friend of Arafat, blamed Sharon for Arafat's death. Palestinian official and nephew of Arafat [Nasser al-Qudwa](#) said that the report of the committee that investigated the death of late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat revealed that the leader was poisoned to death, and that Israel is directly responsible for his assassination. He said "Israel as a state, is a country that has access to Polonium, had the capability to assassinate the late leader, and expressed clear interest in getting rid of him".

On 11 September 2003, the Israeli security Cabinet decided to "remove" Arafat. In a statement it said "Recent days' events have proven again that Yasser Arafat is a complete obstacle to any process of reconciliation... Israel will act to remove this obstacle in the manner, at the time, and in the ways that will be decided on separately..." Prime Minister Ariel Sharon refused to give a timetable for his removal, because "It depends on what happens on the ground,". Sharon said: "Arafat is responsible for the killing of hundreds, if not thousands, of Jews,...The sword is hanging over his head, and this is a good thing." Chief of Staff [Moshe Ya'alon](#) and other Israeli officials declared that the Palestinian leader should "either be killed or deported".

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that Arafat impeded and undermined the peace process and urged states of the European Union to boycott Arafat. Deputy Prime Minister [Ehud Olmert](#) told Israel Radio that killing Arafat "is definitely one of the options" under consideration by the government. A Security Council resolution demanding that Israel desist from deporting Arafat or threatening his safety was vetoed by the United States.

In 2009, [Bassam Abu Sharif](#), Arafat's former advisor, alleged that [Mossad](#), the national intelligence agency of Israel, had poisoned Arafat by a lethal dose of [thallium](#), a rare chemical whose effects are difficult to trace,^[95] via Arafat's daily medications. Abu Sharif alleged that the [Israel Defense Forces](#) (IDF) had held the driver of a Palestinian ambulance that brought him his medications, for a minimum of 30 minutes while the IDF searched it. According to Abu Sharif, this incident would have allowed Israel to replace Arafat's medications with poison. In his book *Arafat and the Dream of Palestine: An Insider's Account*, Abu Sharif wrote, "I was positive they were poisoning his food on a daily basis and doing it right under our very eyes."

As a result of Abu Sharif's allegations, the delegates at the August 2009 Fatah convention in [Bethlehem](#) voted for a resolution which blamed Israel for poisoning Yasser Arafat. An editorial in [The Jerusalem Post](#) questioned the legitimacy of Abu Sharif's allegations, noting that "nobody asked how Abu Sharif came to possess this information, whether he can back it up or why he chose to divulge it so late". A leader of Fatah and a nephew of Arafat said that an investigation indicated a "high possibility of poisoning" but that there was not any proof.

In 2011, Abu Sarif alleged that an investigation conducted by "the most prominent forensic toxicology expert in the UK" had revealed that thallium was responsible for poisoning Arafat. According to Abu Sharif, European toxicology experts are not familiar with thallium and only this forensic toxicology expert could have identified the thallium. However, Abu Sharif did not reveal the names of the expert or the institution responsible for the research.

Israeli officials denied in 2012 any connection with the recent finds. Israeli journalist [Yossi Melman](#), who specializes in espionage stories, reported that, based on his research with [Dan Raviv](#), Israel did not kill Arafat. Melman stated that the [IDF](#) had wanted to take harsh action against Arafat, ranging from killing him to expelling him, but Prime Minister [Sharon](#) rejected these ideas, stating that the advantages would not outweigh being accused of killing Arafat, and Arafat already seemed to be an irrelevant leader who was not trusted by the international community.



Legacy

[01] Martyr Yasser Arafat Governmental Hospital

Martyr Yasser Arafat Governmental Hospital



Martyr Yasser Arafat Governmental Hospital or **Salfit Governmental Hospital** is a [government hospital](#) in the [Salfit](#) city, [West Bank, Palestine](#). Followed by the [Palestinian Ministry of Health](#). It was built in 2004 and was opened in 2006 and has 50 medical beds. It employs 200 staff, including a [doctor](#), [nurse](#), [pharmacist](#), [physiotherapist](#), [laboratory technician](#), [radiologist](#) and others.^{[1][2][3]}

History

In 1974, a health center was built in Salfit, providing primary health care services in addition to emergency and maternity services, and its staff numbered 40. In 1982, the Israeli occupation reduced the number of its staff, and reduced its area to a quarter, and the Casablanca Center for

the mentally disabled was established. Later, during the first Palestinian Intifada, the Israeli occupation closed the entire center.

[02] Yasser Arafat Cup

The **Yasser Arafat Cup** is an [association football](#) cup competition held for [football clubs](#) in the [West Bank](#). The cup is overseen by the [Palestine Football Association](#) and was founded in 2011. The cup is named after [Yasser Arafat](#), the president of the [Palestinian National Authority](#) who died in 2004.

[03] Yasser Arafat International Airport

Yasser Arafat International Airport


مطار ياسر عرفات الدولي

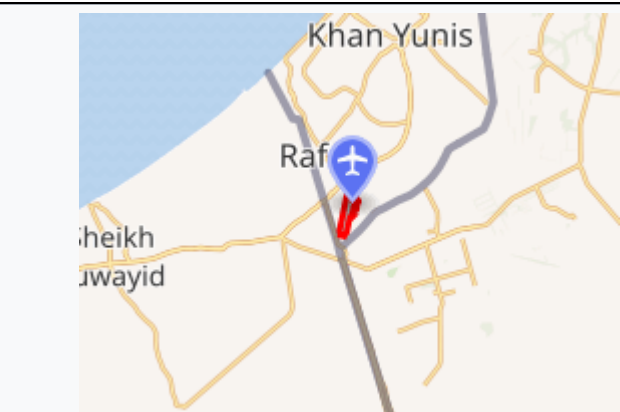


The airport in 2005

- [IATA](#): GZA
- [ICAO](#): LVGZ

Summary

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Airport type | Defunct |
| Operator | Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority |
| Location | Gaza Strip |
| Opened | 24 November 1998 |
| Closed | 2001 |
| Elevation AMSL | 98 m / 320 ft |
| Coordinates |  31°14′47″N 34°16′34″E |



Wikimedia | © OpenStreetMap

Runways

| Direction | Length | | Surface |
|-----------|--------|--------|---------|
| | m | ft | |
| 01/19 | 3,076 | 10,092 | Asphalt |

Yasser Arafat International Airport ([Arabic](#): مطار ياسر عرفات الدولي *Maṭār Yāsir 'Arafāt ad-Dawli*) ([IATA](#): **GZA**, [ICAO](#): **LVGZ**)^{[1][2]} was an [airport](#) in the [Gaza Strip](#). It was located between [Rafah](#) and [Dahaniya](#), close to the [Egyptian](#) border. The facility was built as a result of the [Oslo Accords](#) and opened on 24 November 1998 as **Gaza International Airport**. It served as the base of [Palestinian Airlines](#). The airport ceased operations in 2001 during the [Second Intifada](#). It was renamed in honour of Palestinian leader [Yasser Arafat](#) following his death in 2004. The Gaza airport was progressively destroyed by [Israel](#) during the intifada and later conflicts and by looting.

History

In the [Oslo Accords](#), Israel and the Palestinians agreed to build airports in the [West Bank](#) and [Gaza Strip](#). However, the agreements did not contain specifics, such as when the airports would be constructed or how large they would be. The Palestinians began work on a large airport in southern Gaza, which contrasted with the Israelis' expectation of a small facility suited for local flights. It was built with funding from Egypt, [Spain](#), and [Germany](#) and was designed by [Moroccan](#) architects. The total cost was US\$61 million. An impasse in the peace negotiations delayed the airport's opening by over a year. In the [Wye River Memorandum](#), Israel permitted operations to begin. The airport was named Gaza International Airport and opened on 24 November 1998; Palestinian leader [Yasser Arafat](#) presided over the inauguration ceremony. [Palestinian Airlines](#) relocated to Gaza from [El Arish](#), Egypt, and operated the first commercial flight to [Amman](#) on 5 December. On 14 December, US

president [Bill Clinton](#) landed at the airport and took part in a ribbon cutting. At the time, the opening of the airport was described as evidence of progress toward Palestinian statehood and of collaboration between Israelis and Palestinians.

The airport was operated by the Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority. Passengers underwent security screening by Israeli soldiers at the [Rafah crossing](#); then they took a bus to the terminal to catch their flight. Work commenced on another terminal called the south wing in 2000. Japan funded the project. The Israelis and Palestinians planned to manage security jointly in the terminal so that travellers would not need to go to the Rafah crossing.

In 1999, the airport received 90,000 passengers and more than 100 tons of cargo. As of May 2000, Palestinian Airlines linked Gaza to six cities in the region, such as Dubai and Larnaca. In addition, a handful of foreign carriers, including [Royal Air Maroc](#) and [Egyptair](#), served the airport.

Second Intifada

The [Second Intifada](#) broke out in September 2000, and the airport saw its last flight depart in 2001. The Israeli military bombed the radar station and bulldozed the runway in December 2001. It broke up the runway again the following month. Israel feared that the Palestinians would use the airport to smuggle in weapons and militants. In March 2002, the [International Civil Aviation Organization](#) rebuked Israel for the attack on the airport.

By 2005, the facility had been renamed after Arafat, who died the year prior. Airport personnel still staffed the ticket counters and baggage areas, hoping to deter looting and further Israeli attacks. Construction of the south wing continued slowly.^[11] In November 2005, after the [Sharm El Sheikh Summit](#) and [Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip](#), Israel and the [Palestinian Authority](#) signed the [Agreement on Movement and Access](#), in which they agreed to discuss reopening the airport.

Hamas rule in Gaza Strip

The pact became moot once the political organisation [Hamas](#) gained power in the Gaza Strip. In 2006, it won the [Palestinian legislative election](#) and kidnapped an Israeli soldier. The abduction sparked a [conflict](#) during which Israel bombed the airport. Buildings like the south wing, which was nearing completion, were damaged. Hamas [took over the Gaza Strip](#) the

following year, and the Israelis continued to shell the airport during wars with the group.

During the 2006 conflict, Palestinian officials stopped protecting the airport. People stole equipment from the site. They also chipped away the runway and terminal to obtain rubble; the [Israeli blockade of Gaza](#) had resulted in a shortage of building materials.

Infrastructure

The total area of the airport was 450 hectares (1,100 acres). The passenger terminal was able to handle 700,000 passengers per year and was decorated with stone mosaics and Islamic paintings. There was also a VIP lounge, which had a golden dome modeled after the [Dome of the Rock](#) and a suite for Arafat. The asphalt [runway](#) was designated 01/19 and measured 3,076 by 45 metres (10,092 ft × 148 ft).



Ruins of Yasser Arafat International Airport.

